

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 GENEVA 08709 031958Z

70

ACTION SNM-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 SP-02 INR-07 OES-06

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R 031727Z NOV 76

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3335

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 8709

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, TU, EG

SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN SEIZURE OF OPIUM FROM TURKISH VESSEL

TEHRAN FOR AMBASSADOR VANCE

REF: A) GENEVA 8129; B) GENEVA 8207; C) GENEVA 8509

1. BRAENDEN, CHIEF OF UN NARCOTICS LABORATORY, ADVISES THAT LABORATORY'S ANALYSIS OF SAMPLES OF SEIZED OPIUM OBTAINED FROM EGYPTIAN AUTHORITIES SHOWS THAT THIS MATERIAL DID NOT (REPEAT NOT) ORIGINATE IN TURKEY. THIS OPINION IS SET FORTH IN REPORT WHICH ALSO INDICATES LABORATORY'S BELIEF THAT SEIZURE SAMPLES ORIGINATED IN THE " SOUTH ASIAN SUB-CONTINENT AND NEIGHBORING AREAS". (BRAENDEN TOLD US ON CONFIDENTIAL BASIS THAT HE BELIEVES THIS MATERIAL ORIGINATED IN PAKISTAN OR AFGHANISTAN).

2. TEXT OF THE LABORATORY'S REPORT IS ANNEXED TO MEMORANDUM ADDRESSED TO UNFIDAC'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DE BEUS, DND'S DIRECTOR LING, DND'S DEPUTY DIRECTOR KANDEMIR AND OTHERS. BRAENDEN HAS ALREADY INFORMED EL HAKIM, EGYPTIAN REPRESENTATIVE TO THE CND, THAT SAMPLES OF SEIZED MATERIAL ARE NOT OF TURKISH ORIGIN. EL HAKIM IS NOW IN GENEVA IN CONNECTION WITH UN MEETING  
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PAGE 02 GENEVA 08709 031958Z

ON DRUG ABUSE.

3. TEXT OF LABORATORY'S MEMORANDUM IS AS FOLLOWS:

QUOTE:

"1. A SAMPLE OF AN OPIUM SEIZURE MADE IN EGYPT WAS RECEIVED AT THE UN NARCOTICS LABORATORY ON 27 OCTOBER 1976. A REPORT GIVING THE CIRCUMSTANTIAL DETAILS CONCERNING THIS SEIZURE WAS PROVIDED WITH THE SAMPLE AND THIS IS ATTACHED.

"2. THE SAMPLE, WEIGHING 25 GRAMMES, CONSISTED OF A DARK-BROWN, VISCOUS AND SEMI-LIQUID SUBSTANCE, WITH A STRONG ODOUR OF OPIUM. IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE TO DETERMINE THE MORPHINE CONTENT BY CONVENTIONAL METHODS, BECAUSE OF THE SMALLNESS OF THE SAMPLE AND ITS HIGH MOISTURE CONTENT. THE APPROXIMATE MORPHINE CONTENT WILL, HOWEVER, BE DETERMINED BY A GAS CHROMATOGRAPHIC METHOD AS SOON AS SUITABLE COLUMNS ARE DELIVERED TO THE LABORATORY.

"3. MICROSCOPIC EXAMINATION BY THE METHOD DESCRIBED IN DOCUMENT ST/SOA/SER.K/104 SHOWED THAT ROD AND PARTICLES WERE PRESENT - THE RODS PREDOMINATING SLIGHTLY OVER THE PARTICLES, THUS INDICATING THAT THE SAMPLE TENDED TOWARDS THE ROD TYPE 4.

"4. THE SAMPLE WAS ANALYZED BY THE METHOD OF DIRECT ABSORPTION SPECTROPHOTOMETRY (USING BOTH THE BUFFER AND SULFURIC ACID PROCEDURES) AND BY THE METHOD OF COLOUR REACTIONS. THE DATA THUS OBTAINED WERE COMPARED WITH THE DATA OBTAINED FOR ALL THE AUTHENTICATED SAMPLES ANALYZED BY THE UN LABORATORY. IT WAS FOUND THAT THERE WERE NO AUTHENTICATED SAMPLES WHICH CLOSELY RESEMBLED THE SEIZURE.

"5. IT IS, THEREFORE, NOT POSSIBLE TO INDICATE THE ORIGIN OF THE SEIZURE AND IT IS NOT INTENDED TO MAKE AN OFFICIAL REPORT ON THIS SUBJECT.

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 GENEVA 08709 031958Z

"6. HOWEVER, THE FOLLOWING POINTS ARE OF INTEREST: (A) THE SAMPLE RECEIVED AT THE LABORATORY WAS NOT, IN MY OPINION, OF TURKISH ORIGIN BECAUSE OF SEVERAL CHARACTERISTICS NOT FOUND IN THE TURKISH OPIUM SAMPLES PREVIOUSLY ANALYZED; (B) CERTAIN (BUT BY NO MEANS ALL) OF THE EXTINCTION RATIOS OBTAINED IN THE METHOD OF DIRECT ABSORPTION SPECTROPHOTOMETRY INDICATED RESEMBLANCES TO AUTHENTICATED SAMPLES

FROM THE SOUTH ASIAN SUB-CONTINENT AND NEIGHBOURING  
AREAS.

"7. THE ANALYTICAL RESULTS ARE ATTACHED.

OLAV J. BRAENDEN  
NOVEMBER 1976  
UNQUOTE.

4. THE REPORT TO WHICH REFERENCE IS MADE  
IN PARAGRAPH 1 OF THE LABORATORY'S MEMORANDUM IS  
CONTAINED REF C. STATEMENT ON ANALYTICAL RESULTS  
IS BEING POUCHED.CATTO

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** OPIUM, REPORTS, DRUG SEIZURES, INVESTIGATIONS, SHIP INTERCEPTIONS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 03 NOV 1976  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** saccheem  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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Margaret P. Grafeld  
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**TAGS:** SNAR, TU, EG  
**To:** STATE  
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